

## The Battle of Fort Sumter.

(FROM THE CHARLESTON COURIER.)

At about 2 o'clock, on the afternoon of Thursday, 11th inst., General Beauregard made a demand on Major Anderson for the immediate surrender of Fort Sumter, through his Aide, Col. James Chesnut, Jr., Col. Chisolm and Capt. Lee. Major Anderson replied that such a course would be inconsistent with the duty he was required by his Government to perform. The answer was communicated by the General-in-Chief to President Davis.

At about 9 o'clock, General Beauregard received a reply from President Davis, by which he was instructed to inform Major Anderson that if he would evacuate the fort he held when his present supply of provisions was exhausted, there would be no appeal to arms. This proposition was borne to Major Anderson by the aids who delivered the first message, and he refused to accept the condition. The General-in-Chief forthwith gave the order that the batteries be opened at half-past four o'clock on Friday morning. Major Anderson's reply was decisive of the momentous question, and General Beauregard determined to apply the last argument.

The stout soldier had resolved to make a desperate defence, and the bloody trial of strength must be essayed. The sword must cut under the last tie that bound us to a people, whom, in spite of wrongs and injustices, we had not yet utterly hated and despised. The last expiring spark of affection must be quenched in blood. Some of the most splendid pages in our glorious history must be blurred. A blow must be struck that would make the ears of every Republican fanatic tingle, and whose dread full effects will be felt by generations yet to come. We must transmit a heritage of rankling and undying hate to our children.

The crisis had arrived, and we were fully prepared to meet it. The work that awaited the morning was of a momentous character, but we had counted the cost, and had resolved to do it or die in the attempt.

At the gray of the morning of Friday the roar of cannon broke upon the ear. The expected sound was answered by thousands. The houses were in a few minutes emptied of their excited occupants, and the living stream poured through all the streets leading to the wharves and battery.

At thirty minutes past four o'clock the conflict was opened by the discharge of a shell from the howitzer battery on James' Island, under the command of Capt. Geo. S. James, who followed the riddled Palmetto banner on the bloody battle fields of Mexico.

The sending of this harmful messenger to Major Anderson was followed by a deafening explosion, which was caused by the blowing up of a building that stood in front of a battery.

While the white smoke was melting away into the air, another shell, which Lieut. W. Hampton Gibbs had the honor of having fired, pursued its noiseless way toward the hostile fortification.

The honored missile described its beautiful curve through the balmy air, and falling within the hostile fortress, scattered its deadly contents in all directions. Fort Moultrie then took up the tale of death, and in a moment the guns from the redoubtable Gun Battery on Cumming's Point, from Captain McCready's battery, from Capt. James Hamilton's floating battery, the inflamed battery, and other fortifications, spelt forth their wrath at the grim fortress rising so defiantly out of the sea.

Major Anderson received the shot and shell in silence. But the deepening twilight revealed the Stars and Stripes floating proudly in the breeze. The batteries continued at regular intervals to belch iron vengeance, and still no answer was returned by the foe. About an hour after the booming began, two balls struck hissing through the air, and glanced harmless from the stuccoed bricks of Fort Moultrie. The embrasures of the hostile fortress gave forth no sound again till between six and seven o'clock, when, as if wrathful from enforced delay, from casement and parapet the United States officers poured a storm of iron hail upon Fort Moultrie, Stevens' Iron Battery and the Floating Battery. The broad side was returned with spirit by the gallant gunners at these important posts. The firing now began in good earnest.

A boat bearing dispatches to General Beauregard from Morris' Island, reached the city about nine o'clock, reported that all the batteries were working admirably; that no one was injured, and that the men were wild with enthusiasm.

A short time after that happy news was received, the schooner Petrel from Hog Island Channel, reported that the shot from Stevens' Iron Battery had told upon the walls of Fort Sumter. And also that Fort Moultrie had sustained no damage.

About half past nine o'clock, Capt. R. S. Parker reported from Sullivan's Island to Mount Pleasant that everything was in fine condition at Fort Moultrie, and that the soldiers had escaped unhurt.

The same dispatch stated that the embrasures of the Floating Battery were undamaged by the shock of the shot, and that the formidable structure had been struck eleven times, the balls had not started a single bolt. Anderson had concentrated his fire upon the Floating Battery, and the Dalgren Battery, under command of Lieutenant Hamilton. A number of shells had been dropped in Fort Sumter, and one gun enbarbette had been dismounted.

The following cheering tidings were brought to the city by Col. Edmund Yates, Acting Lieutenant to Dozier, of the Confederate States Navy, from Fort Johnson Stevens' Battery and the Floating Battery are doing important service. Stevens' Battery has made considerable progress in breaching the South and Southwest walls of Fort Sumter. The Northwest wall is suffering from the well aimed fire of the Floating Battery, whose shot have dismounted several of the guns on the parapet, and made it impossible to use remaining ones. The Howitzer Battery connected with the impregnable Gun Battery at Cumming's Point, is managed with consummate skill and terrible effect.

Not a single casualty has happened. The troops are in the best spirits. Two of the guns at Fort Sumter appear to be disabled. Considerable damage has been done to the roofs of the officer's quarters.

At one o'clock the following was received from Morris' Island. Two guns in Stevens' battery temporarily disabled, Anderson's fire having injured the doors of the embrasures. The damage will be repaired speedily. It is thought that Fort Sumter

will be breached in two hours. Three steam vessels of war were seen off the bar, one of them supposed to be the Harriet Lane.

Capt. R. S. Parker reached the city from Fort Moultrie at half-past two o'clock, and makes the following report: Capt. Parker visited Fort Moultrie and the inflaming battery near by, and found all well and in high spirits. He left the mortar battery, Lieut. Hollingsworth, at ten minutes past two. The soldiers stationed there are giving a good account of themselves. The floating battery had been struck eighteen times, and received no material injury.

The venerable Edmund Ruffin, who, as soon as it was known a battle was inevitable, hastened over to Morris' Island and was elected a member of the Palmetto Guard, fired the first gun from Stevens' Iron Battery. All honor to the chivalric Virginian! May he live many years to wear the badge of honor which he has won by his brave and noble deed.

Another noble son of the Old Dominion, who rebuking reminds her of her past glory, was appointed on General Beauregard's Staff, on Thursday, bore despatches to the General in command, from Brigadier-General James Simons, in command of Morris' Island, during the thickest of the fight, and in the face of a murderous fire from Fort Sumter. Col. Roger A. Pryor, the eloquent young Virginian, in the execution of that dangerous commission, passed within speaking distance of the angry and hostile fort.

Despite the fierce and concentrated fire from Fort Sumter, the rival fortification on Sullivan's Island received but slight damage. Its Merlons stood unmoved, and are this morning in as good a condition as they were before their strength was tested by the rude shocks of the shot.

The Floating Battery came out of the iron storm without losing a plate of its iron cover or a splinter of its pine.

A brisk fire was kept up by all the batteries until about 7 o'clock in the evening, after which hour the guns boomed at regular intervals of twenty minutes.

All the batteries on Morris' Island, bearing on the channel, kept up a steady fire for some time at the dawn of day. It is reported they threw their shot into the Harriet Lane, and that that steamer, having advanced as far as the renowned Star of the West Battery, was crippled by a well aimed shot, after which she deemed it prudent to give up the dangerous attempt, and turned her sharp bow to the sea.

Stevens' Iron Battery played a conspicuous and important part in the brilliant, and so far as our men are concerned, bloodless conflict, which has placed the 12th of April, 1861, among the memorable days. The calibre of its guns, its nearness to Fort Sumter, its perfect impregnability, the coolness and skill of its gallant gunners, made this fortification one of the most formidable of Major Anderson's terrible opponents.

The effect of its Dahlgren and 64-pounders was distinctly visible on an early stage of the conflict. Clouds of mortar and brick dust arose from the Southwest wall of the fort, as the shot hissed on their errand of death. The shot after shot told with terrible effect on the strong wall, and at about three o'clock, Major Anderson ceased to return this murderous fire. In the course of the afternoon the joyful tidings, that a breach had been effected in that portion of the fortress, were borne to the city.

We dare not close this brief and hurried narrative of the first engagement between the U. States and the Confederate States, without returning thanks to Almighty God for the great success that has thus far crowned our arms, and for the extraordinary preservation of our soldiers from casualty and death. In the fifteen hours of almost incessant firing, our enemy one of the most experienced and skillful of artists, no injury has been sustained by a single one of our gallant soldiers.

The result of the conflict strengthens and confirms our faith in the justness of the cause for whose achievements we have suffered obloquy, and dared perils of vast magnitude. At the outset of the struggle we invoked the sanction and aid of that God whom we serve, and His hand has guided and defended us all through the momentous conflict. His favor was most signally manifested by the fact that the men engaged in this eventful day. We call the roll of those engaged in the battle, and each soldier is here to answer to his name. No tombstone will throw its shadow upon that bright triumph day. If so it seemeth good in the eyes of Him in whose hands are the issues of life, we fervently pray that our brave sons may pass unhurt through the perils of the day now dawning.

From the Charleston Mercury, Extra, 14th inst.

We closed the report of the grand military drama in progress on our bay amid the clouds and gloom and threatening perils of Friday evening, as though for the concentration of its special energies, commenced again at ten o'clock, and amid gusts of rain and clouds that swept the heavens, the red hot shot and lighted shells again streamed from the girt of batteries around Fort Sumter. The Cumming's Point batteries were unharmed by any shots which had been fired against them, but had not effected anything like a breach, although battering considerably and to the depth of a foot the panopceon on the southeast corner. Major Anderson devoted his attention to the Sullivan's Island batteries, Fort Moultrie and the Floating Battery. Forty rounds of shot were poured into him by a rapid and heavy cannonade from the sea-girt fortress, riddling the quarters. In the emphatic language of an officer, "the quarters were knocked to hell, but nobody hurt." During the morning thirty or forty successive shots, from Sumter, were fired at the Dahlgren Battery, occasioning so much danger to the men at the gun that Capt. Hamilton temporarily removed them. The Floating Battery, commanded by Lieutenants Yates and Hamilton, in its turn received devoted attention. Twelve indecisions are visible: one ball going through the edge of the roof, lodged in the sand bags, producing a slight confusion on the head of a private. The four-gun battery, instantly suspended, and old and young, either mounted to their points of observation, or rolled in crowds upon the Battery, to look upon the last and most imposing act in this great drama.

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At a quarter to one o'clock, the staff from which the flag still waved was shot away, and it was long in doubt whether, if there were the purpose, there was the ability to re-erect it. But at the expiration of about twenty minutes it again appeared upon the eastern rampart, and announced that resistance was not ended. In the meantime, however, a small boat started from the wharf, bearing Colonels Lee, Manning, Pryor and Miles, Aids to Gen. Beauregard, with offers of assistance, if perchance the garrison should be unable to escape the flames. As they approached the fort the flag appeared, and as the firing from our batteries was unabated, they started to return, and had progressed perhaps the larger portion of the way when a shot arose from the whole circle of spectators on the islands and the main land, announcing that the white flag of truce was waving from the ramparts. An instant after a small boat was seen to shoot out from Cumming's Point, in the direction of the fort, in which stood an officer with a white flag upon the point of his sword. The officer proved to be Col. Wigfall, aid to the Commanding General, who entering through a port hole, demanded the surrender. Major Anderson replied, that "they were still firing on him."

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At a quarter to one o'clock, the staff from which the flag still waved was shot away, and it was long in doubt whether, if there were the purpose, there was the ability to re-erect it. But at the expiration of about twenty minutes it again appeared upon the eastern rampart, and announced that resistance was not ended. In the meantime, however, a small boat started from the wharf, bearing Colonels Lee, Manning, Pryor and Miles, Aids to Gen. Beauregard, with offers of assistance, if perchance the garrison should be unable to escape the flames. As they approached the fort the flag appeared, and as the firing from our batteries was unabated, they started to return, and had progressed perhaps the larger portion of the way when a shot arose from the whole circle of spectators on the islands and the main land, announcing that the white flag of truce was waving from the ramparts. An instant after a small boat was seen to shoot out from Cumming's Point, in the direction of the fort, in which stood an officer with a white flag upon the point of his sword. The officer proved to be Col. Wigfall, aid to the Commanding General, who entering through a port hole, demanded the surrender. Major Anderson replied, that "they were still firing on him."

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At a quarter to one o'clock, the staff from which the flag still waved was shot away, and it was long in doubt whether, if there were the purpose, there was the ability to re-erect it. But at the expiration of about twenty minutes it again appeared upon the eastern rampart, and announced that resistance was not ended. In the meantime, however, a small boat started from the wharf, bearing Colonels Lee, Manning, Pryor and Miles, Aids to Gen. Beauregard, with offers of assistance, if perchance the garrison should be unable to escape the flames. As they approached the fort the flag appeared, and as the firing from our batteries was unabated, they started to return, and had progressed perhaps the larger portion of the way when a shot arose from the whole circle of spectators on the islands and the main land, announcing that the white flag of truce was waving from the ramparts. An instant after a small boat was seen to shoot out from Cumming's Point, in the direction of the fort, in which stood an officer with a white flag upon the point of his sword. The officer proved to be Col. Wigfall, aid to the Commanding General, who entering through a port hole, demanded the surrender. Major Anderson replied, that "they were still firing on him."

"Then take your flag down," said Col. Wigfall; "they will continue to fire upon you so long as that is up." And further intercourse, resulted in a surrender of the fort. In the meantime the boats with other Aids from Charleston had returned, and receiving Col. Wigfall they came over to the city; and thus was consummated the closing act in the military drama.

In the afternoon Col. Chesnut and Manning, with other officers and the Chief of the Fire Department and the Palmetto Fire Company, went down to Fort Sumter. We have not now the time to make a detailed description of the fort. It is enough to state at present that the walls are un-injured. Upon one of the faces, (to the west), exposed to the water battery, it had received eighty shots; the other, equally exposed to this battery and to Fort Moultrie, had received more. Many of the doors to the embrasures had been driven in, but the permanent injury was slight, the balls penetrating but about 8 to 10 inches, removing about half a bushel of material. The cornice of the parapet in many places were knocked off, but all the parapet guns dismounted had been restored to their positions, and their carriages seemed then but little injured by the flames. The wall was most disfigured by the balling from Cumming's Point, but there was little progress to a breach. Some of the casemate guns were dismounted, and the devastation in the fort was great; the gunners were covered with fragments of shells. The barracks were swept entirely away, and there was nothing left but a loose mass of brick and mortar.

The Bombardment of Fort Sumter. APRIL 13, 1861.—Throughout the whole of Friday night the various mortar batteries continued their iron rain upon Fort Sumter. At an early hour on Saturday morning the gun batteries, which had been silent during the darkness of the night, reopened their fire. About seven o'clock Fort Sumter vigorously returned their compliments. The Cumming's Point batteries were unharmed by any shots which had been fired against them, but had not effected anything like a breach, although battering considerably and to the depth of a foot the panopceon on the southeast corner. Major Anderson devoted his attention to the Sullivan's Island batteries, Fort Moultrie and the Floating Battery. Forty rounds of shot were poured into him by a rapid and heavy cannonade from the sea-girt fortress, riddling the quarters. In the emphatic language of an officer, "the quarters were knocked to hell, but nobody hurt." During the morning thirty or forty successive shots, from Sumter, were fired at the Dahlgren Battery, occasioning so much danger to the men at the gun that Capt. Hamilton temporarily removed them. The Floating Battery, commanded by Lieutenants Yates and Hamilton, in its turn received devoted attention. Twelve indecisions are visible: one ball going through the edge of the roof, lodged in the sand bags, producing a slight confusion on the head of a private. The four-gun battery, instantly suspended, and old and young, either mounted to their points of observation, or rolled in crowds upon the Battery, to look upon the last and most imposing act in this great drama.

At ten minutes after 8 a. m. a thick smoke was seen issuing from the southern portion of Fort Sumter's barracks; the flames broke out visible to the eye. At times the fire appeared to be almost extinguished, and then again would rise. Whilst it was in progress, three explosions occurred from the fall of shells among the service magazines or combustibles of the fort. The concentrated fire of all the batteries was steadily kept up, the progress of the flames continued, and all the quarters were involved in conflagration; a dense cloud of black smoke issued.

The fire from Fort Sumter became irregular and weak; towards midday it almost entirely ceased. Still the flag flew, and shot and shell fell regularly and steadily upon the beleaguered fortress.

At midday, on Friday, during the heat of the engagement, Maj. Anderson made a signal of distress to the men-of-war lying off at our bar, and on Saturday again, while under fire from all the batteries, and troubled with the heat and smoke of the burning barracks, again lowered the flag of the U. States, as a signal for assistance to his naval allies; the ships were only from three to five miles off, the day was bright and clear, the water smooth. But discretion was the better part of valor. The Northern officers in command, having been so carefully selected, for their fidelity to their host and superior trustworthiness to a hostile crusade against the South, were unwilling to incur the risk of running their ships into the harbor, and engaging our batteries. They thought it prudent not to attempt reinforcements in launches. The soldiers of Abolitionism were left to their fate, without an attempt to relieve their perilous condition. Their idle allies had the pleasure of seeing them strike their colors to the Confederate States. They are commendable for their gallantry, and we trust that these brave mariners will receive a suitable commendation from their no less gallant Captain Jackson the 2d and his magnificent Cabinet.

At a quarter to one o'clock the flag of the United States on Fort Sumter went down with its staff. For some twenty minutes no flag appeared above the fort. Col. L. T. Wigfall, accompanied by private H. Gourdin Young, of the Palmetto Guard, got into a small boat pulled by negroes. They approached it from Morris' Island, Col. Wigfall holding up his sword with a white handkerchief tied upon it. Before they reached the fort, however, the United States flag, accompanied by a white flag, was held up on the rampart, which Col. Wigfall did not see. The Sullivan's Island batteries not perceiving the boat, continued their fire upon the United States flag. The boat approached the wharf, Col. Wigfall, having entered the fort, called for Major Anderson, and stated that he was Aid-de-Camp to General Beauregard, that meeting his distress and the impossibility of holding the post, and that, as no flag was flying, he had come to claim a surrender, in the name of his chief. He requested the inquiry what terms would be granted, by stating that Maj. Anderson could not make his own terms, but that General Beauregard, a soldier and a gentleman, knew how to treat a gallant enemy. Major Anderson must leave the details of the surrender to General Beauregard. Major Anderson then agreed to surrender to General Beauregard, in the name of the Confederate States, and at one o'clock and five minutes, struck the United States flag, which had been standing in company with the white flag. The Sullivan's Island batteries ceased firing, and Col. Wigfall started to report to Gen. Beauregard.

Soon after the United States flag disappeared, three Aids-de-Camp had been dispatched from Headquarters; but Col. Wigfall had anticipated Capt. Lee, and Col. Miles and Pryor.

When the report was made of what had occurred, Major Jones, the Chief of Gen. Beauregard's staff, accompanied by Colonel Charles Alston, was sent with authority to arrange the terms given. These were to the following effect:

All proper facilities will be afforded for the removal of Major Anderson and command, together with company arms and property, and all private property.

The flag which he has upheld so long, and with so much fortitude, under the most trying circumstances, may be saluted on taking it down.

Major Anderson is allowed to determine the precise time of yielding up the post, and is permitted to go by sea or land, according to his election.

At seven Major Jones returned to Fort Sumter, and the final arrangements and terms were definitely fixed.

We learn that Fort Sumter is uninjured in its capacity for defence, no breach being made in the walls, but that the quarters are completely destroyed, notwithstanding the Palmetto Fire Company was dispatched to put out the fire. The quarters on Friday caught three times, and were extinguished by the soldiers; on Saturday it was impossible. At one time the smoke within the fort was so distressing that the men in the casemates were constrained to place their mouths to the floor for breathing. Maj. Anderson has expressed admiration and surprise at the perfection of practice by our batteries. He was almost entirely prevented, by this cause, from using his barbettes guns. But for the paucity of his force, and their consequent inability to retire within the casemates, destruction of life must have been frightful. Thus protected, they escaped with only five wounded—none killed. We understand four casemate and five barbettes guns have been dismantled by our guns.

We do not learn that Major Anderson and Lieut. Davis have expressed their opinion that, had they been allowed to use their sixty-four pounders in barbettes, bearing upon the Iron Battery, they might have destroyed it. The accurate firing of the rifle company was very annoying, and materially assisted in the defence of Morris' Island.

The battle of Fort Sumter is a marvellous affair in the bloodlessness of an engagement of thirty-six hours and a half. It is surely the merciful finger of God. But to no human agencies engaged in the business is greater praise due than to those who conceived and planned our defences, and who have created them in so faithful and substantial a manner. For these causes—the admirable efficiency of our defensive preparations, and the handsome manner in which the guns have been used to annoy and cripple the enemy—the wonderful